



Disability Awareness Month

October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). On October 2, all students and staff from TRC gathered in the gymnasium for the National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month Kick-off celebration. The bleachers were packed and although the room was quiet, there was a feeling of excitement in the air. When the theme song "Celebration" by Kool and the Gang, began to play, everybody began to clap and sing. Superintendent Karen Carothers delivered a great welcome message with much encouragement to the students. Everyone left with great anticipation of the month of activities to follow.

TRC believes that a disability does not define one's ability, so when staff encouraged our students to let their abilities shine, the students gladly accepted the invitation. All month long students participated in different events to bring awareness to the abilities of individuals with disabilities. This issue of the Eagle's View will highlight some of these events.

POSTER CONTEST

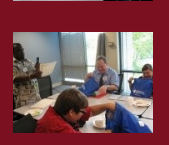
Several TRC students participated in an NDEAM poster contest. The posters were to depict reasons why employers should hire individuals with disabilities. The winners were as follows:

1st Place was awarded to Dominique Brooks. This talented young man chose famous people with disabilities to compile and sketch a "Highly Skilled Talent Pool". The caption read "Focusing on Abilities rather than Disabilities". The phrase came from the biography of famous American author Helen Keller. 2nd Place was awarded to the duo team of Amanda Ford and Jordon Segura with a "Harry Potter" theme poster. 3rd Place was awarded to Business Education Team – Tiffany Vincent, Steven Bradshaw & Chelsea Colòn with a story of Helen Keller's life and work. Other students participating included Eric Cohenour, Brandi Street, Alexandria "Alex" Bell and Jessica Alexander. We want to thank all the students for their participation. Congratulations to all students who participated in using their talents and doing a great job with all the poster entries.



MENTORING DAY

On October 17, students traveled to several work sites to learn about employment opportunities and shadow staff as part of NDEAM Mentoring Day. Millie Carden and Carlos Witt joined TRC clients from Davidson County at the Tennessee Department of General Services office in downtown Nashville. Not only did they observe work in action but they actively participated in the completion of work in the state mail room and printing office. They worked hard and learned a lot. In appreciation for their help, the students were treated to lunch by the Human Resources staff. At another Mentoring Day location, students from the Business Education Program and JOBS went to Amerigroup Corporation. Upon arrival at the facility, students were greeted with a large welcome poster and a detailed agenda for the day. The CEO, COO, and Human Resource Director of Amerigroup talked to students about the history and career opportunities of the company. In addition, AppleOne Temporary Service shared resume information and interviewing techniques. Amerigroup also provided gift bags for the students in addition to lunch.



Abilities EXPO



On October 11, TRC sponsored a great day of communication and information sharing as part of the NDEAM. These first annual Abilities Expo was a huge success. All divisions of TRC were invited to host a booth highlighting their program emphasis. Members of the community, VR Counselors, and placement persons were also invited to prepare a booth with information about employment opportunities and services. Students were asked to present their program areas using posters and items used in their training as aids in their presentations. There were a total of 22 booths and approximately 75 visitors attending the expo in addition to our students. TRC students in the Auto/Detail Shop (pictured above) received recognition for the best presentation by the judges. The entire student body demonstrated great creativity, ingenuity, and hard work in setting up and manning their booths throughout the day. Community members were awed with the student's knowledge and articulation of their training programs combined with their consistent display of pride in their exhibits.



SHOOT FOR THE FUTURE

Students in the Hospitality Worker program and Building Maintenance program attended the Shoot for the Future event held at the Nashville Gun Club on October 6, 2012.

The event promotes awareness and allows individuals from across the United States with disabilities an opportunity to compete in a trap and sporting clay shoot. The Mandrell sisters, Louise and Irlene, attend each year in support of the event. TRC students have attended the event for the past six years helping to set up, break down, and serve two full course meals as a live work training opportunity. This event allows students to apply their training at a real event in a large venue. The students did an amazing job and served approximately 125 people at this event. Students pictured from left to right back row: Dedric Wright, Christopher Setser, Rachel Lee, Shelly Albert, Natasha Allen, Dominique Brooks, Ernest Woodside, Nero Thomas, Crystal Dare.

Code Pink: Breast Cancer Awareness



Staff wore pink in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness on October 26. Top photo, from left to right: Back row: Kristin Young, Wayne Bain, Cindy Day, Ginger Eisenga. 2nd row: Felicia Moody, Angie Duke, Cindy Murdock, Nakeia Pirtle, Debbie Garrett. Sitting: Tracy Alsup, Melissa Norwood, Deborah Hollon, Gina Mitchell. Photo at left: Alan Smith and Joanna Landrum.



OCTOBER Shocktober is Frightfully Fun

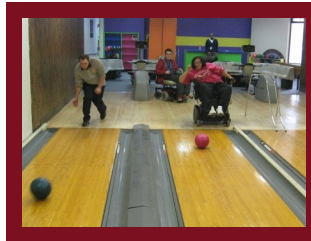
Recreation hosted a Halloween party in October providing a fun filled night with food, fellowship and dancing for the students. The event started off with face painting and a movie in the recreation hall. Later that night the students enjoyed October Shocktober which included the mummy relay, hot pumpkin, ghoulish hole, pumpkin golf, decorative pumpkins, costumed karaoke, and dancing. Students also enjoyed a bonfire and s'mores. Many students on campus participated. Many of the students expressed that this was one of the most special and best experiences ever. Thanks to all the TRC staff who helped give the students a special day. Pictured are Blake Belcher (left) and Bobby Ellis (right).



TRC Bowling League in Full Swing

When prospective clients tour the TRC campus, the one area that gets the most exciting reaction is the bowling lanes in the Recreation Department.

TRC has a bowling league and currently has 32 TRC students participating. All league play takes place on Tuesday nights. The "Unbowlievableables" are in 1st place, the "Elbow Benders" are in 2nd place, "I Can't Believe it's not Gutter" and the "Bowling Stones" are tied for 3rd place, the "King Pins" and "Pin Heads" are tied for 4th place and the "Pin Crushers" and "Split Ends" are currently tied for 5th place. The current league play will continue until Christmas break which begins on December 19th.



Thankful to Serve

Students enjoyed the annual Thanksgiving Dinner at TRC on November 13 while being served by TRC staff. The dinner menu consisted of turkey, ham, macaroni and cheese, green bean casserole, corn, stuffing, bread, and dessert.

After the Thanksgiving dinner, the TRC Eagles basketball team played their first game of the season against the TRC staff. Students looked forward to competing against staff and bragged about defeating their instructors and support staff. The game did not go as the students had hoped with a final score of 77—44. Looks like the students got "served" twice in one night. Better luck next time Eagles. Before the Thanksgiving break, the Eagles will host the MTSU Kappa Alpha Fraternity on November 27. Go Eagles. We're rooting for you!



Live Work Training: "Ceiling" a Future



As part of the Live Work Training at TRC, students in the Building Maintenance Program worked alongside TRC Maintenance staff to construct ceilings in the instructor offices of the JOBS (Job Objective and Behavioral Services) Program. The JOBS Program has four instructors who share two offices. The offices were constructed with open ceilings allowing for little noise control and privacy. Training supervisor, Linda Baharloo, conducted mock interviews with several students from the Building Maintenance Program, interested in taking part in the live work experience. Four students were selected to work on the project. The students enjoyed working alongside staff and were very proud of the work they completed. The JOBS instructors greatly appreciated the office improvements and all agree that the work looks as if it was done by a professional company. Live Work Training is a wonderful opportunity for students to get hands on training in a realistic work setting.

TRC Student RETURNS as Graduation Speaker

Brett Martin will be the keynote speaker for the December 2012 Graduation at TRC. Brett sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) after being involved in a motor vehicle accident on October 1, 2003 when he was riding as a passenger in the bed of a pickup truck and was thrown from the vehicle. Brett was referred to the TRC TBI Program by his VR Field Counselor, Ophelia Jordan, in 2005. Brett received a TBI Vocational Evaluation and also completed TBI Program Services in 2006. Brett graduated from TRC and went on to complete two years of college classes at MTSU with the assistance of VR where he was a Business Management major. While at MTSU he was involved in the Kappa Alpha Order Fraternity and was chosen as the Southern Gentleman of the Year in 2007. Brett got his fraternity involved in volunteer work while at MTSU and had his fraternity brothers become volunteers with the TRC Recreation Program. In addition, Brett was chosen as the 2006 Spokesperson for the Vanderbilt Clinic Bowl and gave speeches and talked to people about supporting the clinics throughout the state. After graduation from MTSU, Brett completed an internship with Senator Bill Ketron's office. Brett is now a Warehouse Manager for his family's business, Kimbro Oil. Brett has lived on his own now for three years and has purchased his own home.

Brett is a wonderful role model to TBI students and comes by often to visit and meet new students. He is a very positive and upbeat person who feels that his time with VR and TRC affected his life for the better and allowed him to have a future.

Two Heads are Better Than One

The students in the Traumatic Brain Injury program plant a garden each year growing vegetables, herbs, and flowers as part of their therapy. The students enjoy working outdoors and have a sense of accomplishment and many have carried these skills over to growing plants when they return home. In past years, Ann Wild, Physical Therapy Assistant in the TBI Program, has assisted students with building scarecrows to celebrate the end of growing season and to celebrate fall. In the past, the students have built two scarecrows. This year, due to the tighter economy and budget cuts, the group decided to have one unique scarecrow with two heads. Their names are Corpus & Callosum. After all, it's about diversity & acceptance!



TRC Welcomes New Staff

Nakeia Pirtle	File Clerk
Randall Boothe	Case Manager
Felicia Moody	JSST Instructor
Patrick White	Custodial Worker

TRC has established a "Students First" philosophy. Our core values revolve around meeting our students' needs and are clearly identified as follows:

Students First

Because the student—has a need
We have a job to do

Because the student—has a choice
We must be a better choice

Because the student—has sensibilities
We must be considerate

Because the student—has an urgency
We must be efficient

Because the student—is unique
We must be flexible

Because the student—has high expectations
We must excel

Because the student—has influence
We have the hope of more customers

Because the student—We Exist!



You are invited to attend the next Graduation Ceremony to honor TRC students in the completion of their programs. The next Graduation will be held December 14, 2012 at 10 a.m.

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